

adjacent to Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. This represents an extended distribution into Maharashtra, wherein more or less isoclimatic conditions prevail. Voucher specimens are housed in the Herbarium, P.G. Department of Botany, L.K. Dr. P.R. Ghogrey Science College, Dhule, Maharashtra.

Crotalaria burhia Buch.-Ham. (in Wall. Cat. 5386. 1831-32 (nom.nud.)) ex Benth. in Hook. Lond. Journ. 2:474. 1834 (cum descript.); Dalz. & Gibs. Bombay Fl. 54. 1861; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 2:66. 1876; Cooke, Fl. Pres. Bombay 1:311. 1958 (Repr. ed.); Shah, Fl. Gujarat 1:193. 1978; Bhandari, Fl. Indian Desert 1:111. 1978; Shetty & Singh, Fl. Rajasthan 1:216. 1987.

Rigid, profusely branched undershrub, branches interlacing, hoary, striate. Leaves deciduous, simple, exstipulate, subsessile, oblong, 1.4-3.5 x 0.3-0.8 cm, obtuse, rarely mucronate, silky, adpressed hairy, pale green. Flowers in terminal, 5-8 cm long racemes, pedicel short, bibracteolate; calyx hairy, 0.6-0.8 cm long, calyx-teeth lanceolate, acute; corolla yellow, streaked red, standard ovate, 0.6 x 0.5

cm, clawed, woolly, wings oblong, 0.5 x 0.2 cm, keel incurved, free towards apex, 0.7 x 0.5 cm, stamens 10, monadelphous, anthers heteromorphic; pistil unicarpellate, style hairy on one side, curved, stigma oblique; pods pilose, beaked, ovoid, seed 1-2, brown, bean shaped, compressed.

Flowers and Fruits: December-April.

Distribution: along the banks and sandy bed of river Girna at Wade and its vicinity.

Specimens examined: Wade (dist. Jalgaon): 1935, 1938.

I am grateful to Professor Dr. R.M. Pai, Ex-Head, Department of Botany, Dr. B.A. Marathwada University, Aurangabad, for going through the manuscript and for constant encouragement. I thank the Principal Mr. B.M. Patil, for facilities and Dr. S.G. Pradhan, B.S.I. (WC) Pune, for vital information.

May 5, 1997

D.A. PATIL

*P.G. Department of Botany,
L.K. Dr. P.R. Ghogrey Science College,
Dhule-424 005. (Maharashtra.)*

REFERENCES

Bhandari, M.M. (1978): Flora of the Indian Desert. Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur, India.

Cooke, T. (1958): The Flora of the Presidency of Bombay Vol. I. Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta, India. (repr.)

37. ON THE COLOURS OF THE FLOWERS OF *BAUHINIA VARIEGATA* L. (LEGUMINOSAE: CAESALPINIOIDEAE)

During a visit to the Ajodhya hills in Purulia dist. of West Bengal in the second week of February 1987, I came across a few cultivated trees of *Bauhinia variegata* L. near the Ajodhya Forest Rest House. They were flowering, with either the usual reddish purple flowers or only the pure white ones. On one of the trees with pure white flowers, I observed that in most of the flowers the uppermost petal was completely reddish purple on one side of the median line, while in others a small portion of the uppermost petal was longitudinally striped with reddish purple. I had not come across this kind of colouration in any published literature so far.

December 23, 1997 S. BANDYOPADHYAY
*Botanical Survey of India,
P.O. Botanic Garden,
Howrah 711 103.*

On revisiting the same locality in February 1998, the interesting colouration in the uppermost petal of the flowers was found not to be present in the particular tree. Furthermore, all the petals were more reddish purple than white and a deep blotch of reddish purple colour was also present in the middle of the uppermost petal, as found in the reddish purple flowers.